

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13 July 55

NSC BRIEFING

TASS STATEMENT ON GERMAN UNIFICATION

I. The TASS statement of 12 July on the German problem indicates that

Moscow still hopes to avoid the unification and free elections issues at Geneva.

A. The statement is defensive in tone and obviously intended to refute Western charges that the Soviet Union has lost interest in German unification.

B. However, it offers nothing new on German unity, and seems to assume that quick agreement on this question is impossible.

C. It says that Bonn's membership in NATO and WEU is the main obstacle to unification and therefore a European security system must be the first step toward German unification.

D. This indicates that new European security proposals will be made at Geneva.

E. The TASS statement further indicates that at the summit meeting the USSR will claim that the elections question is a subsidiary one and that such detailed ~~problems~~ problems should be worked out by the

20
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